

The North, therefore, if it undertook to fight for the re-establishment of the Union, was forced to commence a war of conquest. No other phrase can so precisely describe the kind of war which the North must prosecute, or else acquiesce in the permanent dissolution of the Union. The theory of the national sovereignty of each individual State was diametrically opposed to the theory of the single national sovereignty of the great Republic. The United States could no longer be considered a nation, if the claims of the seceding States were to be tolerated. The "country" hitherto, throughout the North at any rate, regarded as unquestionably extending from the Atlantic to the Pacific and from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico, was, so it now appeared, a dream. It had never really existed. The patriotism directed towards it was in fact nothing but a strong desire for the continuance of an advantageous treaty between the various nations situated within the above-described territory. The great nation, free in its laws and traditions, preserving by an admirable system the privileges of local Bell-government and the general supervision and control which alone can insure a consistent policy on matters of public im-

portance, had suddenly disappeared, so it
was said,
from the face of the earth. What wonder
that the
Northern people revolted at such
conclusions, re-
fused to tolerate the arguments by which
they were
supported, and determined to put forth
all their
strength, to crush all opposition, and to
re-establish
the unquestioned sovereignty of the one
only nation
throughout the length and breadth of
the land I